consider the project for financial assistance under Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).,

The revised project proposals on "Reclamation of Alkali Soil in Gujarat State" and "Pilot Project for Prevention of Salinity Ingress in Coastal Areas of Saurashtra", have been examined and recommended to Planning Commision for their consideration.

Increasing the minimum support price for TUR

178. SHRI K.C. KONDA1AH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the minimum support price fixed by Government per quintal for Tur grown in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has sought hike in the minimum support price for Tur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the Government for Tur is Rs. 1320 per quintal for the Kharif Marketing Year 2001-02. The MSP fixed by the Government is applicable throughout the country.

(b) and (c) The MSP of Tur for the year 2001-02 has been fixed by the Government on the basis of the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Coasts & Prices (CACP). While finalizing its recommendations on price policy, the CACP takes into consideration several factors like cost of production, demand and supply, etc. The CACP had recommended the MSP of Tur @ Rs. 1320 per quintal, though the State Government of Karnataka suggested the MSP @ Rs. 2285 per quintal. After taking into account the recommendation made by the CACP, views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other factors considered important for price fixation, the Government accepted the recommendations made by the CACP.

Financial Assistance to Karnataka for drought

179. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned/released by Government to Karnataka to take

up drought relief works during 2001;

(b) the number of taluks in the State declared as drought affected during 2001;

(c) the amount of additional grant sought for by the State Government to take up drought relief works; and

(d) the reasons for not sanctioning the required amount to that State to tackle the drought effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARA YAN YADA V): (a) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. A sum of Rs. 58.72 crore has been released to the State of Karnataka during 2001-2002 as Central share from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Distribution of relief is, however, the responsibility of the State Government.

(b) The State Government had declared 146 *taluks* as drought affected.

(c) and (d) The request of the State Government for assistance from the national Calamity Contingency Fund (CCF) was considered by the High Level Committee (HCL), in its meeting held on 5th September, 2001. Keeping in view the balances available with the State Government in their Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), the HLC recommended that, to begin with, funds from the CRF be utilized. No assistance was approved from the NCCF and the State Government was suitably informed.

Small and marginal farmers

† l80. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the number of small and marginal farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas of land available with such farmers for cultivation, State-wise?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.